

Equipment

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• During tree removal and other overhead activities, a good hard hat should be provided.

CHEMICAL APPLICATION AND STORAGE

Pesticide labels contain minimum recommendations and WPS standards must be met including:

- Chemical-resistant gloves such as 15 mil or thicker 100 percent nitrile gloves should be used.
- Coveralls or chemical resistant aprons.
- Splash goggles (not safety glasses)
- Disposable shoe or boot covers
- A respirator
- A plumbed-in eyewash station should be available in your mixing and loading area.
- Eyewash belt packs should be worn by applicators.
- Pre-packaged spill response kits which include: absorbent materials, labeled disposal bags, emergency PPE-like gloves, goggles, respirators for responding to pesticide or flammable material spills.
- Properly labeled green pesticide cabinets
- Yellow safety cabinets for flammable materials

SUMMER HAZARDS

Safety and employee productivity is challenged during summer weather and electrolyte-replacement beverages like Gatorade ensure good hydration. Recommended intake is at least 16 ounces before work, five to 10 ounces every 15-20 minutes during work and 24 ounces for each pound of body weight lost through perspiration after work. Other important items include:

- Safety sunglasses
- Vented pith-style helmets
- Sunscreen
- Disposable sweatbands
- Insect repellent
- Insect sting relief pads
- Poison oak and ivy pre-treatment lotion
- Cold packs and first aid kits

ENSURING COMPLIANCE

Once employees are properly equipped and trained about how to work around hazards, there remains the task of actually making sure they adhere to safe work practices and wear the equipment provided. Fortunately, manufacturers keep improving their products, making them more comfortable to wear and easier to use – and that helps. For example, new equipment like breathable coveralls, safety glasses in more fashionable styles and disposable respirators with cooling exhale valves are now available.

— Jim Costopulos

Jim Costopulos is president of Compliance Safety Inc., an outdoor safety products distributor.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Delaware achieves 100 percent Audubon participation

HOCKESSIN, Del. — The Delaware State Golf Association (DSGA) has become the first state to reach 100 percent participation in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for golf courses.

Through a venture spearheaded by its green section, the DSGA agreed to fund ACSP

membership dues for all superintendents in Delaware. The group will fund membership each year to ensure statewide membership, while working with Audubon International to maximize participation in the program.

"We have been working on getting statewide participation

for the last six months," said Kevin Mayhew, superintendent at Newark Country Club. "All of the superintendents believed in the program and wanted to join, but saw the yearly dues as the hurdle."

The DGSA decided to fund the effort because it recognizes the benefit that the ASCP provides

its members.

"We saw this as a natural progression," said J. Curtis Riley, the executive director of the DSGA. "There is no better way for the golfers of the state to keep the courses up with the latest programs to help protect and enhance the wildlife and

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BASF

Superintendents retool restrictions

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them, and we really lead the way in rewriting some drought regulations. They will still reduce water use, but it will make it more manageable for professionals in the field."

The new restrictions were unveiled in late February. Golf courses must submit a watering plan to their commonwealth drought coordinator and are allowed to water at an average daily rate that does not exceed 70 percent of the course's five-year calendar month basis quantity. Watering is still limited to the hours of 5 p.m. and 10 a.m., but hand watering and syringing is allowed during the day.

"We didn't mind restricting water use, but we wanted to be able to have the ability to use the water how we saw fit at our course," Wall said. "We simply told them that if they wanted to cut the water back, they should let us as professionals decide how to use the water."

According to Ron Ruman with the Pennsylvania DEP, Wall and other green industry members were very helpful. "We are trying to work with all businesses so that they can continue to operate," he said. "But we hope that all courses follow the letter of the law and reduce the quantity that they are using because this is a very serious situation that we are in."

Ruman said that local police will enforce the new policy and all golf courses must submit plans to their commonwealth drought coordinator before beginning any irrigation this season.

NEW JERSEY REGS IN LIMBO

Superintendents in New Jersey have taken a similar approach to reworking water restrictions, but are still waiting for confirmation from officials with New Jersey's DEP.

"We started meeting with the DEP in 1999 because they required other industries to cut back water use by 25 percent, but golf courses were forced to reduce use by 90 percent and only water greens and tees," said Chris Carson, superintendent at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield. "We felt it was unfair from an agronomic and economic standpoint and we have worked hard as an industry to get a logical plan in place. We have not achieved that yet, but they have heard us and we hope that we will be treated as a business and not as a luxury item."

The entire green industry in New Jersey came together to form the Alliance for Water Conservation and has been working with Rutgers University to quantify the economic impact of the turfgrass industry and formulate best management practices for

water use on golf courses.

"Golf is currently labeled as non-essential by the state," said Glenn Miller, superintendent at Manasquan River Golf Club. "But the green industry is a billion dollar industry in New Jersey. Similar to those in Pennsylvania, we have been working with the state to come up with a work-

able year-round conservation plan cuts back water use, but that lets us use the water where we deem necessary."

With restrictions imminent, Miller expects new rules to be announced soon and is optimistic that they will be easier on golf courses.

"We are in better shape now than we were three years ago," he said. "Being proactive is the key." ■

Delaware, Audubon

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environment."

Audubon International's president and CEO Ron Dodson hopes Delaware's efforts will catch on in other states. "One-hundred percent participation in the program

nationwide may occur some day," he said. "But at least today, we are one step closer to that goal. I hope that the DSGA initiative will be replicated in states and regions throughout the country." ■



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